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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/803,012

03/16/2004

Ivan To

THOLAM P226US

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20210 7590 07/01/2008  
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EXAMINER

MILLER, WILLIAM L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/01/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 06-09-2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. As indicated by the applicant, the examiner does rely upon the passage in col. 2, lines 56-59, of Robinson '010 which states, "Alternatively a resin from which the photo-luminescent character(s) 16 is formed in a conventional fashion may be applied directly (not shown) to the etched character(s) on the rear surface 17 of the first panel 12."
3. The term "etched" is known in the art to imply surface removal and thus inherently an inlaid cavity in the surface where the surface was removed. Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Tenth Addition) provides the following definition of "etch" which is "to produce (as a pattern or design) on a hard material by eating into the material's surface (as by acid or laser beam)." The applicant introduces Holmes (US#5499165) to argue the term "etching" and "frosting" are synonymous, and therefore Roberts fails to disclose an inlaid cavity. The examiner disagrees as the arbitrarily applied Holmes reference is irrelevant to the prior art rejection, and the term "etched" is being viewed as assuming its ordinary meaning which implies surface removal and thus an inlaid cavity.
4. The applicant further introduces Burbank (US#6363498) to argue the "conventional fashion" referred to in the above passage of Robinson implies silk screening. The examiner disagrees as the arbitrarily applied Burbank reference is irrelevant to the prior art rejection, and in any event, the above passage of Robinson explicitly states the photo-luminescent character(s) 16 are applied directly to the etched characters(s). Therefore, the photo-luminescent character(s)

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must at least partially fill the cavity defining the etched character(s) as they are applied directly thereto.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Miller whose telephone number is (571) 272-7068.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on (571) 272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William L. Miller/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677